RESIDENT HUNTING IN BC — AN ECONOMIC PROFILE

Prepared for:

Economic Development Branch
BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

With the Generous Support of:

Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Prepared by:

GSGislason & Associates Ltd.
Vancouver, BC

March 2003

104-05747/

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ANALYSIS

PREFACE

PURPOSE

Building Blocks have been conceived and developed by the Economic Development Branch of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, under the guidance of Nancy South, Manager Economic Analysis, as an analytical tool that supports British Columbia coastal and land and resource use planning and decision-making and economic development initiatives. The Blocks contain concise business and sector information for a broad range of resource-based business types in BC. At this point, there are more than 30 Blocks either complete or in draft form. Several more Blocks have been identified as high priority by planning tables and other client groups. Additional Building Blocks will be developed over time, and some Blocks may be updated. For the most current Building Blocks, please see the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management website, at: http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/ecdev/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Generous support in terms of both funding and staff time has been provided by the Ministries of Energy and Mines; Water, Land and Air Protection; Agriculture, Food and Fish; and Forests, as well as by Skeena and Coast Regions of the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management.

BENEFITS

Building Blocks are expected to provide the following general benefits:

- Increase efficiency and more informed decision-making by providing readily accessible, credible information to planning and economic development processes;
- Improve the consistency of economic information across planning areas;
- Support economic analysis and decision-making that occurs outside formal coastal and land use planning processes; and
- Provide linkages between economic analysis and other social and environmental analytical tools (through identifying resource requirements to support economic activities and general compatibilities with other sectors and values).

LIMITATIONS

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in Building Blocks is accurate and consistent. Approved, credible data sources are the foundation for Building Blocks. All Blocks were reviewed by sponsoring agencies and other experts. However, users are cautioned that information is used at their own risk, and that the authors and sponsors are not liable for any damages. Any conclusions or interpretations by the authors are not intended to represent government policy. Also, note that Building Blocks do not provide site specific information nor do they consider requirements for sustainability (social, community, environmental).

COPYRIGHT/REFERENCE

These Building Blocks are copyright to the Government of British Columbia, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Economic Development Branch. See http://www.gov.bc.ca/com/copy/ for information regarding the copyright and to request permission to reproduce the Building Block documents.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/CITATION

BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, 2003, Building Blocks for Economic Development and Analysis, *[Title of Sector]*. http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/ecdev/

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 EXHIBIT 1: RESIDENT HUNTING IN BC 2001/02 — A SECTOR OVERVIEW 1

1.1 Overview 1
1.2 Resources 1
1.3 Products 1
1.4 Market 2
1.5 Regulatory Regime 2
1.6 CORE 2
1.7 Limited Entry Hunts 2
1.8 Aboriginal Rights 3
1.9 Recent Policy Changes 3
1.10 Conservation 3
1.11 Capacity for Growth 4
1.12 Government Revenues 4

2.0 EXHIBIT 2: RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY IN BC 2001/02 — A PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC PROFILE 5

3.0 EXHIBIT 3: REGIONAL PROFILE OF BC RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY FOR BIG GAME 2001 6

4.0 EXHIBIT 4: YEARLY COMPARISON OF BC RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY 7

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY 8

1.0 EXHIBIT 1: RESIDENT HUNTING IN BC 2001/02 — A SECTOR OVERVIEW

1.1 Overview

- 86,242 resident basic hunting licenses purchased in 2001/02.
- 50% decrease in licenses purchased since 1981/82 (a peak year).
- Resident hunters spent an average of 14.3 days hunting on an average of 7.4 hunting trips *Source: BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995, MELP.*
- Resident hunters, throughout BC, belong to over 135 local hunting and fishing organizations that participate in conservation and habitat improvement programs.
- The BC Wildlife Federation is the largest and longest standing province wide voluntary conservation organization in British Columbia — membership includes over 150 separate clubs with a collective membership of over 30,000 members.

1.2 Resources

- BC has the greatest diversity of wildlife species in Canada.
- With the largest range of ecologic variety of any jurisdiction in North America, BC incorporates almost all the landscapes found in Alaska, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.
- Resident hunting in British Columbia takes place throughout the province which is divided into 8 resource management regions: Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland, Thompson, Kootenay, Caribou, Skeena, Omineca-Peace, and Okanagan.
- Omineca-Peace and the Kootenay regions have the greatest hunter activity while Skeena and the Lower Mainland have the least.
- Hunters need access to good wildlife populations in a pristine wilderness setting.
- Big game animals harvested in 2001 — 17,004 mule deer, 8,883 moose, 6,586 white tailed deer, 2,388 back bears, 1,829 elk, 368 mountain goats, 208 caribou, 181 mountain sheep, 32 grizzly bears (plus upland birds, small game, and waterfowl).

1.3 Products

- Hunting is a form of outdoor and wildlife recreational activity.
- Two main components of the hunting activity are:
  - The aesthetic outdoor experience (seeing and experiencing game in their natural environment, camaraderie with friends, and getting away from it all),
  - The harvesting of game animals (including birds) for meat.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

1.4 Market

- Resident hunter profile (BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995, MELP):
  - 96% male,
  - More likely than general BC population to have grown up in a town, village or rural area,
  - Hunted 25 years on average,
  - More likely to have high school graduation, trade certificate or diploma or other non-university education relative to the general population,
  - Average household income similar to that of all provincial households.

1.5 Regulatory Regime

- Governed by the *BC Wildlife Act* and the *BC Hunting and Trapping Regulations* (a summary is provided yearly for hunters in the *Hunting and Trapping Regulations and Synopsis*, by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection).
- The Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection (MWLAP) is responsible for all licenses and permits issued under the Wildlife Act and its regulations.
- To hunt as a resident in BC one must:
  - Have a Resident Hunter Number Card
    - to obtain a card one must be a resident (as defined in the *BC Wildlife Act*), and have,
    - completed the Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education Program (CORE) or completion of a hunter safety training course,
  - Purchase a Resident Hunting License,
  - Have a valid Species License.
- For Limited Entry Hunting one must also have a Limited Entry Hunting Authorization.
- For migratory game bird hunting one must also have a federal Canada Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit.

1.6 CORE

- Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) is an education program designed to ensure that prospective new hunters meet acceptable standards of knowledge and skill for safe and ethical participation in hunting. The program is delivered by the BC Wildlife Federation.

1.7 Limited Entry Hunts

- Limited entry hunting (LEH) is a measure to achieve wildlife management objectives without resorting to shortening seasons or completely closing areas.
- There are caribou, moose, elk, mountain goat, mountain sheep, mule deer, white tailed deer, turkey, grizzly bear and bison limited entry hunts.
- Limited entry hunting authorizations are allocated through a computerized draw for applicants. Since 1998, there are enhanced odds for all species and regions (except deer) for those who have not won previously.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

1.8 Aboriginal Rights

- Native people (Status Indian under the *Canadian Indian Act*):
  - Have legal Aboriginal rights to harvest wildlife for sustenance (food, social and ceremonial) in their traditional areas,
  - Are not required to obtain a hunting license,
  - If conservation is a concern, the affected First Nations group will be consulted, and compliance with hunting regulations may be required,
  - Outside traditional territories, must comply with hunting regulations.

1.9 Recent Policy Changes

- In the fall of 2002, the Recreation Stewardship Panel submitted a final report on a new management and funding model for fish, wildlife and park recreation. Key recommendations include:
  - License and other fee revenue dedicated to maintaining and enhancing park, fish and wildlife services,
  - Habitat Conservation Trust Fund will be maintained,
  - Increased public involvement through advisory committees,
  - Consideration of a parks foundation or trust,
  - A long term outdoor recreation strategy,
  - Recreation-use decisions to be subject to public consultation based on environmental conservation, protection, restoration and enforcement standards,
  - Continuing Ministry of Forests outdoor recreation programs,
  - User fees to pay for incremental costs of recreation facilities and services including fee increases for hunting, angling and camping.

1.10 Conservation

- The Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is directly supported by surcharges on hunting and fishing licenses. Since 1981, the BC Habitat Conservation Trust Fund has invested $48 million in wildlife and fisheries conservation programs in BC. It is an important source of funds for studying the endangered species among the bats, birds, reptiles, amphibians and insects. As well, over the past 5 years, special surcharges on bear licenses have been dedicated to funding grizzly and black bear research and inventory.
- Affiliated with the BC Wildlife Federation, the BC Conservation Foundation administers, implements and delivers a wide variety of conservation related projects.
- Conservation efforts by the Ministry includes, for example:
  - Hunt closures, 5 point bull regulations and a recovery plan for nationally threatened Southern Mountain and Boreal caribou populations,
  - A surveillance program for Chronic Wasting Disease,
  - A 1995 ban on toxic lead shot on waterfowl,
  - Ban on commercial trade for certain bear parts,
  - Compulsory reporting and inspection programs,
  - Limited entry and limited entry shared hunts (moose).

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

1.11 Capacity for Growth

- Growth potential appears limited due to a steady decline in participation since 1981.
- Potential reasons behind decline include:
  - Competition from other activities such as skiing and golfing,
  - Rising overall costs of hunting,
  - Decline in animal populations,
  - Increasing complexity and the restrictiveness of the provincial hunting regulations,
  - Changing demographics including increasing population age and urbanization.
- Related recommendations by the Recreation Stewardship Panel include: re-establishing wildlife viewing, continuation of existing hunts, addition of new special hunts, simplify and communicate regulations, increase protection from exotic diseases and species, updating and implementing the Provincial Wildlife Harvest Strategy.

1.12 Government Revenues

- Provincial government revenues include:
  - Basic hunting licence fees (April 2003 , $32 resident of BC, $7 for resident seniors, $7 for junior licenses — 10 to 14 years),
  - Species licences or tags ranging from $8 (bobcat, lynx, wolverine) to $80 (grizzly bear in April 2003),
  - Limited entry hunt application ($6),
  - A Habitat Conservation Trust Fund surcharge is included in most fees.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

2.0 EXHIBIT 2: RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY IN BC 2001/02 — A PRELIMINARY ECONOMIC PROFILE

	Total Activity 2001	2001 Activity Ratios Per Active Hunting Client	2001 Activity Ratios Per Hunting Day
Resident Hunting Licenses			
Basic	74,185	.93	.07
Senior	10,580	.13	.01
Junior	1,477	.02	-
Total	86,242	1.08	.08
Number of LEH Applications	160,369	2.00	.14
Number of TAGS	161,504	2.02	.14
Number of Active Resident Hunters	80,100[1]	1.00	.07
Hunting Activity Days	1,146,000[2]	14.3	1.00
Hunter Expenditures[3]			
Transportation	$23.72 million	$296	$21
Food, Beverages & Accom.	$12.82 million	$160	$11
Equipment	$13.46 million	$168	$12
Taxidermy & Butchering	$3.21 million	$40	$3
Hunting Fees	$4.90 million	$61	$4
Other	$5.12 million	$64	$4
Total	$63.23 million	$789	$55
Government Revenues			
Hunting Licences	$1.15 million	$14	$1.00
TAGS	$2.57 million	$32	$2.24
LEH	$0.80 million	$10	$0.70
Other	$0.38 million	$5	$0.33
Total	$4.90 million	$61	$4.27

Source: Estimates by GSGislason & Associates Ltd. based on Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection data and available reports.

[1] 92.9% of licensed resident hunters are active hunters, *BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995, MELP*
[2] 14.3 average hunter days — includes small game and birds, *BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995, MELP*
[3] 1995 Average cost per day (*BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995, MELP*) increased by 12.34% for inflation (to 2001)

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

3.0 EXHIBIT 3: REGIONAL PROFILE OF BC RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY FOR BIG GAME 2001

	Van Island	Lower Mainland	Southern Interior (Thompson)	Kootenay	Cariboo-Chilcotin	Skeena	Omineca-Peace	Okanagan	Unknown	Total Province
Activity *										
# Hunters	5,569	3,223	17,647	19,291	12,961	8,214	31,101	20,777	4,990	123,773
Hunter Days	45,306	18,859	124,168	17,7093	91,018	52,280	257,243	145,059	28,918	939,944
Harvest										
Black Bear	379	190	268	217	233	292	589	214	6	2388
Grizzly Bear	0	0	0	0	0	21	11	0	0	32
Caribou	0	0	0	0	23	110	75	0	0	208
Mule Deer	2,361	1,216	3,239	879	3,674	1,093	1,926	2,611	5	17,004
White Tailed Deer	0	0	151	3,255	7	20	294	2,859	0	6,586
Elk	130	5	0	826	0	2	845	21	0	1,829
Moose	0	0	483	168	1,272	1,672	5,104	181	3	8,883
Goat	0	2	22	171	20	100	48	5	0	368
Sheep	0	0	17	31	8	18	100	7	0	181
Total	**2,870**	**1,413**	**4,180**	**5,547**	**5,237**	**3,328**	**8,992**	**5,898**	**14**	**37,479**

*The activity and harvest numbers refer to hunting for the big game species listed. Some hunters were active in more than one region; hence the sum of the regional figures in some hunter categories exceeds the total number given for the province.

Source: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Resident Hunter Survey Statistics, 2001.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch

4.0 EXHIBIT 4: YEARLY COMPARISON OF BC RESIDENT HUNTING ACTIVITY

Year	1981/82	1986/87	1991/92	1996/97	2001/02
Licenses Sold	174,080	130,286	123,627	106,610	86,242
LEH Applications	10,106	81,769	135,241	162,379	160,368
TAGS Sold	248,286	192,750	230,144	181,493	161,504

Estimated Big Game Animals Harvested

Year	1995	2001
Black Bear	2,806	2,388
Grizzly Bear	149	32
Caribou	181	208
Mule Deer	21,215	17,004
White Tailed Deer	9,519	6,586
Elk	2,025	1,829
Moose	9,328	8,883
Goat	515	368
Sheep	323	181
Total	**46,061**	**37,479**

Source: BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Resident Hunter Survey Statistics, 2001 and BC Resident Hunter Survey 1995 , MELP, 1997.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management

5.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Bank of Canada Inflation Calculator, HTTP://WWW.BANKOFCANADA.CA/EN/INFLATION_CALC.HTM
2. Bears in BC website, HTTP://WWW.BEARSINBC.COM/PAGES/01BLACK/01EDUCATION.HTML
3. British Columbia Conservation Foundation webpage, HTTP://BCCF.COM/
4. British Columbia Wildlife Federation webpage, HTTP://WWW.BCWF.BC.CA/
5. Province of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, *Wildlife Act*.
6. Province of BC, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Program, "Wildlife Harvest Strategy: Improving British Columbia's Wildlife Harvest Regulations," April 1996.
7. Province of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, "Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis 2002-2003."
8. Province of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, "Limited Entry Hunting Regulations Synopsis 2002-2003."
9. Province of BC, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, "British Columbia Resident Hunter Survey 1995," February 1997.
10. Province of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, 'Resident Hunter Survey Statistics 2001."
11. Province of BC, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, "Wildlife Branch License/Permit Sales Statistics 2001/02, 1976-2000."
12. Province of BC, Ministry for Water, Land and Air Protection website, HTTP://WLAPWWW.GOV.BC.CA
13. Province of BC, "Recreation and Stewardship Panel, Final Report and Recommendations," Nov, 2002.

© 2003 Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Economic Development Branch